

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE 4/26/11 MEETING

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm.

Those attending: Gayle Sovinee, Ken Vasilik, Mary Chakales, Debra Collington, Jan Banks, Allison Bond, Andrew Clark, Richard Leatherman, Michael Reich, Josh O'Conner, Ron Kennedy Guests: Alisa Hamilton, Mary Albert

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

Motion made, seconded and passed that the minutes of the 3/22/11 meeting be accepted.

There being no committee treasurer present, there was no treasurer's report. However, we have over \$900 left in this year's budget and if we don't use it we'll lose it. The Mayor confirmed this.

Old Business

Copies of the revised Bylaws were distributed

New Business

Applications for membership Motions were made, seconded and passed to approve Ron Kennedy and Josh O'Conner to membership

Final nomination and election of officers Ballots were completed and counted with the results as follows:

- Josh O'Conner, Chair
- Michael Reich, Vice Chair
- Richard Leatherman, Secretary
- Debra Covington, Financial Secretary

Memorial Day Event Allison Bond reported that the subcommittee consisting of herself, Andy Clark and Debra Collington has met two times. The event will be held on Monday, May 30th (observed Memorial Day) at City-County Plaza Pack Square Park starting at 3pm. Matt Mittan of Clear Channel Radio will be moderator. Mayor Bellamy indicated that a wreath may be available that was donated to the City by Walter Plaue. Debra has looked at wreath in the \$80-100 dollar price range. We have volunteers to play bag pipes and taps. Chaplain Rockwell will present the innovation. Josh agreed to

ask for the parking garage to be available and to be the key note speaker. ROTC will be asked to hand out programs. Parks and Rec does have tents available. Haywood Community College will be making the programs. Michael agreed to pick them up. Andy indicated having a possible sound system available. We are planning to have the Honor and Remember Flag on display. Memorial Day expenses would be the wreath and programs.

Bele Cher Gayle reported that the booth will be at the same space as last year at the corner of Battery Park and Haywood St. The event runs from July 29-31. Set up will begin that Thursday night. Ron Kennedy offered to facilitate getting volunteers to help with set up and tear down. The booth that is used needs waterproof side walls and the MCVA sign needs better support in the middle. Gayle has agreed to again head the subcommittee for Bele Cher this year and has already started getting names from veteran support groups who would like to work shifts at the event. The \$250 set aside from this year's budget will only cover the canopy sides and supports for our MCVA banner. Budget for whiteboard/easel may have to wait until the next budget. This will be discussed at April meeting. It was decided not to purchase the canopy sidewalls because they were too expensive (\$85 per sidewall). Gayle agreed to purchase additional waterproof tarps instead. Gayle plans to purchase a Standup White Board/Easel, supports for the Banner and a portable battery operated fans and table covers if we don't get them donated. She also plans to purchase a cooler to be used at both the Memorial Day event and Bele Cher.

A sign up sheet for manning the booth in three hour increments will be circulated to the members and service organizations.

Budget Balance Expenditures for present term include \$50-60 for water cooler, \$250.00 for canopy sides and support for MCVA banner, \$199.99 for White board and \$80-100 for Wreath if needed. Mayor Bellamy indicated that next year's budget should be \$1000.00

Announcements and Comments

- Chief Warrant Officer Terry L. Varnadore, II from the Mills River area was killed in Afghanistan this week.
- The veterans cemetery in Black Mountain will have a memorial day remembrance
- On May 13 at the National Guard Armory @ 9:00am a veteran work shop will be held to develop resume and job readiness. On May 14 at the same location, a job fair will occur where employers from the area will be available to interview veterans. Debra Collington or David Ponder are the points of contact and may be reached at 828-274-8571
- Andy Clark reported that the DAV is in the planning stages of hosting a town hall meeting sometime this fall. State Dignitaries will be invited to attend and address participant's questions.
- Gayle Sovinee reported that Helios Warriors will be celebrating its one year anniversary on May 1 @ 5-8:00 at the Westville Pub on Haywood Road.

- Home Free Bagels Company is working to create living wage jobs for homeless people in Asheville.
- Pam Kelly is no longer with Parks and Rec and they're looking for someone to take over her duties as our liaison.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 24 at 1:00 pm Recreation Division Office, 72 Gashes Creed Road, East Asheville
(same property as the Nature Center).